



Wildlife Hazard Management

16th April 2024

ASWHM_OAN_068

Version 5.0

Operational Advice Notice

Solitary Bees (May – September)

It is the responsibility of all employers to ensure that relevant OANs are brought to the attention of their staff. However, individuals remain responsible for their own actions and those who are in any doubt should consult their supervisor or Manager.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Operational Advice Notice (OAN) informs airside operators, especially airlines, of the layered surveillance and alerting plans linked to insect (mainly solitary bee) activity at London Heathrow Airport. In addition, it advises airline operators to implement additional control measures to mitigate the environmental hazard posed by insects, such as enhanced use of pitot covers or additional pre-flight inspections, when necessary.
- 1.2 Significant insect activity is typically observed in the summer (June to August). However, this risk period can start in early May and continue until September and early October.
- 1.3 In June 2021, three separate events occurred at Heathrow Airport, where aircraft suffered from abnormal pitot/static system events, two of which resulted in rejected take-offs. The subsequent Aircraft Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) report identified the cause as the nesting activity of certain species of wasps and bees within pitot probes, resulting in airspeed discrepancies and associated crew actions.
- 1.4 This OAN forms part of Heathrow Airport Limited's (HAL) response following the subsequent Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) Safety Notice [SN-2021/014 Pitot Blockage Events](#) and AAIB Investigation and should be read in conjunction with the CAA Safety Notice [SN-2021/014 Pitot Blockage Events](#).



2. Safety Procedure

As outlined in the CAA Safety Notice SN2021/014, airline operators should apply the following during the above risk period:

- 2.1 Maintenance Organisations and Airworthiness Management Organisations should comply with the Original Equipment Manufacturers / Type Certificate Holders – Operational Suitability Data (OSD), specifically concerning aircraft storage and pre-flight inspections.
- 2.2 Crews should be made aware of this potential issue and reminded of the importance of the speed checks during the take-off roll and the actions to be taken in the case of a discrepancy, as well as the appropriate unreliable speed indications for their aircraft type should they discover the issue once airborne.
- 2.3 Airline operators should also ensure that appropriate covers are used to cover any inlets when aircraft go into periods of low utilisation.

3. Monitoring

- 3.1 HAL Airfield Operations and its nominated subcontractor have installed various ‘bug hotel’ monitoring sites airside and landside for bee and other insect activity.
- 3.2 During the risk period, each monitoring station will be checked at least twice a month. If insect/bee activity is observed, the monitoring frequency will increase (up to daily where required). This will be communicated accordingly.
- 3.3 A map of the monitoring stations can be found in Appendix A.

4. Notification

- 4.1 The above monitoring reports will be sent to an established list of recipients. If you wish to receive notification of the output from the surveillance visits, please contact the Airfield Duty Manager (AfDM) at airfield.duty.manager@heathrow.com.
 - 4.1.1 Communication will be sent after the visits are completed for all the sites, which could take several days if no activity is observed.
 - 4.1.2 If a visit identifies bee/insect activity, a notification will be sent to the distribution list, and the frequency of observations will increase accordingly.
- 4.2 Airline operators must notify the Airfield Duty Manager (AfDM) if they are conducting their own monitoring or observing of bee/insect activity as required.



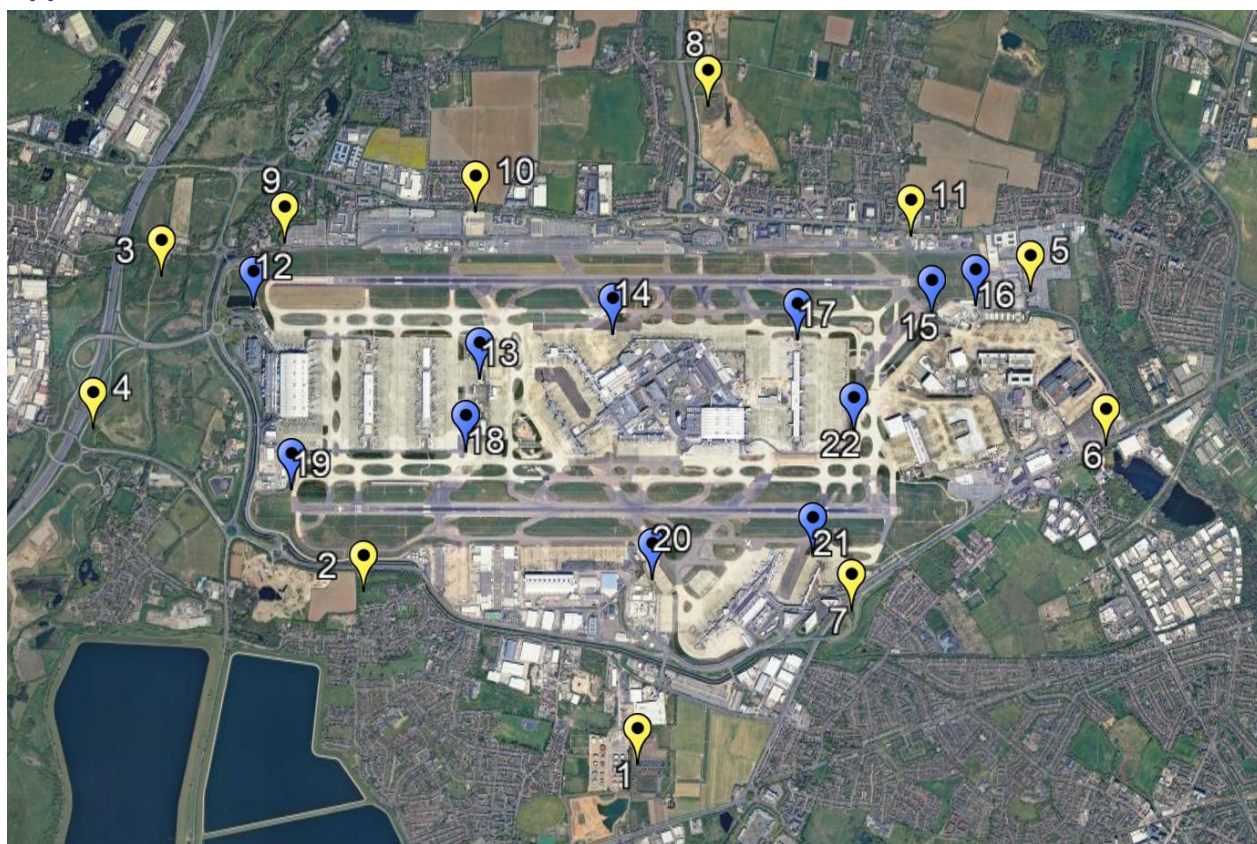
5. Continuation

5.1 Monitoring throughout the 2022 and 2023 seasons has resulted in only minimal observations of insect activity throughout the risk period. It is expected that, should similar levels of observation be recorded in the 2024 season, that the monitoring programme will be scaled back or removed.

6. Enquiries

Any questions regarding this OAN should be directed to the Heathrow Airfield Duty Manager (AfDM) at airfield.duty.manager@heathrow.com or 0208 745 7373.

Appendix A



📍 Landside
 📍 Airside

Number	Location
1.	Mayfield Farm
2.	Oaks Road Bio Site
3.	Orchard Farm Bio Site
4.	Colne Valley Bio Site



5.	Grundon Sweeper Tip
6.	Camp 4 Bio Site
7.	T4 Slip Road
8.	Sipson Escape Shaft
9.	DoNR Basin
10.	Compass Centre
11.	216 Office Entrance
12.	T5 Balancing Pond
13.	573 / Vehicle Wash
14.	355 / Cargo Store
15.	AY1
16.	Eastern Perimeter Road Boundary – Vehicle Store
17.	231 / 249 Building
18.	581 – Above Underpass D1
19.	NB11 Lamppost
20.	455 Hydrant Post
21.	429 Post
22.	251 / 252 - Nevis

